

Filed for intro on 06/01/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 799
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend University of Tennessee Lady Vol Tamika Catchings on being named the Naismith College Basketball Women's Player of the Year.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly has viewed with great interest and excitement the University of Tennessee Lady Vols basketball program, a season that has included the 12th consecutive appearance at the NCAA Final Four; and

WHEREAS, no school has epitomized success more than the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers, and a major reason for their tremendous achievement is the outstanding play of forward Tamika Catchings; and

WHEREAS, Tamika's exceptional influence is best illustrated in her recent selection by the Atlanta Tipoff Club as the Naismith College Basketball Women's Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Harvey and Wanda Catchings, Tamika learned the game of basketball at an early age from her father, who played 11 years in the National Basketball Association with Milwaukee and Philadelphia, and competed against her sister, Tauja, a 1996

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Nike/WBCA High School All-American who led the University of Illinois to several Sweet 16 appearances; and

WHEREAS, Tamika's exemplary high school basketball career began at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois, where she became the only underclassman in state history to be named Miss Basketball; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Texas in 1995, she led her Duncanville High School team to an outstanding 40-0 record, a Texas 5-A state championship, and a number 2 national ranking, earning numerous accolades and awards for her amazing skills; and

WHEREAS, as a freshman at the University of Tennessee, Tamika was named to the Kodak All-American team, only the second Lady Vol to earn such a lofty honor in her first year of collegiate play; and

WHEREAS, she was nominated for Freshman of the Year honors by the U.S. Basketball Writers and *The Sporting News*, unanimously voted as the SEC Freshman of the Year, earned spots on the SEC All-Tournament, All-SEC, and All-Freshman teams, and started in 37 of 39 games for the Lady Vols, breaking the UT freshman scoring record with 711 points; and

WHEREAS, as a sophomore Tamika was again named to the Kodak All-American team, earned a position on the *Associated Press* All-American team, and was selected to the *Sports Illustrated*, *The Sporting News*, and *Women's Basketball Journal* All-American teams; and

WHEREAS, Tamika Catchings was named to the *G-ball Magazine* All-Inspirational Team, was tabbed for the Southeastern Conference All-Academic Team with a 3.11 GPA in Sports Management, was named to the Coaches All-SEC team, the SEC All-Tournament team, the NCAA East Regional Tournament team, and reached the 1,000-point mark after just 58 games; and

WHEREAS, as a junior, Tamika's established herself as one of the top players in the nation by averaging 15.7 points, 7.9 rebounds, 2.7 assists, and 2.6 steals per game while shooting nearly 47 percent from the field; and

WHEREAS, she was second in the SEC in steals this past season, fourth in free throw percentage, fifth in scoring and offensive rebounds, seventh in field goal percentage, eighth in rebounding, and tenth in defensive rebounds; and

WHEREAS, Tamika's many accomplishments included her unanimous selection to the *Associated Press* All-American First Team and was chosen as their Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, she was again tabbed by the *Women's Basketball Journal* as a First Team All-American recipient, earned SEC All-Tournament laurels for the third consecutive season, was named to the *Associated Press* All-SEC First Team for the second time in her career, and was recently named to the SEC Good Works Team for her contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, the epitome of a team player, Tamika carried the Vols to victory over Texas Tech in the Mideast Regional Finals where she was named MVP of the Mideast Region, despite spraining her ankle in the first half; and

WHEREAS, Tamika Catchings has been instrumental in the Lady Vols' success during her three year tenure with the team; since she appeared on the scene for the Lady Vols, Tamika has played a prominent role in UT's three SEC Championship titles and National Championship; and

WHEREAS, Tamika has developed her considerable skills under the guidance of Coach Pat Head Summit, who is recognized as one of the preeminent college basketball coaches in America; and

WHEREAS, Tamika is a great source of pride for her parents, Harvey and Wanda, her sister, Tauja, and brother, Kenyon; the University of Tennessee is honored to be home to this gifted young woman; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this talented athlete on her numerous contributions to the University of Tennessee Lady Vols basketball program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Tamika Catchings upon being selected as the Naismith College Basketball Women's Player of the Year, applaud her exemplary basketball career at the University of Tennessee and wish her much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.